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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY **Iraq**

SUBJECT Communist Demonstrations

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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The attached document, which contains information on communist participation in the Iraqi demonstrations in late November 1952, is forwarded for retention.

Encl: 1 document (3 pages).

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1. The object of the demonstration: The aim of the Communist Party in making this demonstration, and the reason it continued even after the resignation of the Al-Umari Ministry was the fact that the Communist Party wished to impose a Popular Democratic government having as its leader Kamil Chaderchi who was to have been assisted by Muhammad Hadid, Abd-al-Razzaq al Shaykhly, Dhiban al Ghaban, Isma'il al-Ghanim, Abd-al-Wahab Mahmud, Ja'far al Badr, Husayn Sawzi, and others.

2. The leaders of the demonstration: In the name of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Iraq, Sharif al Shaykh appointed the following persons as leaders of the demonstration, and gave them orders to direct it according to the way events developed:

Kadhim Jawad Kadhim
Kadhim Ja'far al Muhami (Kadhim Ja'far the Lawyer)
Muhsin Ali al Ayyubi
Abd-al-Sattar Lubair
Suha Innayan (female)
Thamina Najid Yusuf (female)
Balqis Shararah
Dr. Nazih al Dulaimi (female)
Asam Ibrahim
One other person

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3. Important aspects of the demonstration:

a. (The fact that) the Communist Party led the demonstration's movement, clamor, clashes with the Police, speechmaking, poetry reading, and carrying of banners.

b. And the banners were:

Englishmen, get out of our country!

We demand a Popular Government!

Vive World Peace!

Down with Nur-al-Din Mahmud, the criminal and executioner of the Army in Palestine!

One banner (Vive Arab Neutrality!) was carried by a number of members of the National Democratic Party and the United Popular Front.

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c. The demonstrators were not only Communists and their assistants, but also included members of the Istiqlal, National Democratic Party, United Popular Front and various other Communist Fronts. These (groups) were also joined by lawyers who are members of the Partisans of Peace and Members of the Union of Youth. 25X1A

d. Hamud Malik al-Rawi and his brother Mad-Allah together with some "bakery workers", set the fire to the United States Information Service. They were prevented from doing this on the morning of 23 December by some (other) demonstrators, but when they returned and came near the office they climbed the wall and set the fire and did all the damage to the furniture. Also, some of the demonstrators threw stones at the headquarters of the Constitutional Union Party building; and they took the Constitutional Union Party Sign (off the building) and hung it on the door of a brother. The demonstrators in Karkh (Baghdad West) intended to set fire to the Jalhiya Police Station, but Muhammad Salah Bahr al-'Ulam prevented them from doing so. But the demonstrators did set fire to the Bab-al-Shaykh Police Station.

e. The number of demonstrators on Ghazi Street on Sunday the 23rd of November was about 30,000 and the general public were in it too, even though they had no political duties.

f. Many clashes took place between the demonstrators and the Police in Fadhil Quarter, Regent Square, Bab-al-Muadham, Sinak Quarter, Karkh, and Sahat Zubayda. Many were wounded and killed on both sides, but the demonstrators kept on going after these clashes.

g. And when the police were withdrawn and the Army took their places, the demonstrators were shouting and flattering the soldiers in the attempt to get them to join them and not oppose them.

4. After everything quieted down:

a. After the announcement of Martial Law, many of the demonstrators were put into jail, and other well known Communists as well. Some of them were the Lawyer members of the Partisans of Peace and (others were) Union of Youth members, workers, and members of the National Democratic Party, Istiqlal, United Popular Front and Communists not members of the Party. And to state matters clearly, this wave of arrests has never touched the leaders of the Communist Party and their organizers.

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Comments:

1. Probably refers to the demonstrations of 21-25 November 1952.
2. In military terminology, "according to the situation and the terrain".
3. Although this figure is apparently greatly exaggerated, in Baghdad parlance, Ghazi Street is often used to refer to the entire area between Ghazi and Rashid Streets from South Gate to Bab-al-Muadham. Therefore, this figure, which includes bystanders, is probably correct.
4. Communists who did not take part in the demonstrations but who were well known for their Party connections.
5. Informant possibly means that many persons were arrested as Communists who were not Communists, which has frequently happened in Iraq.